

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A shear wall comprising:

an upper channel;

a lower channel;

a plurality of spaced-apart studs connected between the upper channel and the lower channel, the plurality of studs including a first stud connected to the upper channel near a first end of the upper channel to form a first corner and connected to the lower channel near a first end of the lower channel to form a second corner, a second stud connected near a second end of the upper channel to form a third corner and near a second end of the lower channel to form a fourth corner, and a plurality of interior studs spaced between the first and second studs, each of the interior studs having at least two holes formed therein and having a front face and a rear face;

a first rod connected to the wall near the first and fourth corners; and

a second rod connected to the wall near the second and third corners;

wherein each of the first and second rods pass through one of the two holes in each of the interior studs such that neither the first rod nor the second rod extend past the front face or the rear face of any interior stud; and

wherein each end of the first and second rods is attached to an upstanding plate at each of the four corners of the wall with blocks corresponding to the first rod being attached to a first side of a respective upstanding plate and blocks corresponding to the second rod are attached to an opposite side of a respective upstanding plate such that the first and second rods do not interfere with each other where they cross.

2. (Original) The shear wall of Claim 1, wherein the studs and channels are made from steel.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently Amended) The shear wall of Claim 1 [[3]], wherein each upstanding plate is integrally formed with a base plate to form a T plate.

5. (Currently Amended) The shear wall of Claim 1 [[3]], wherein each end of the rods is threaded, and wherein a first end of each rod has a right hand thread, a second end of each rod has a left hand thread, and wherein each upstanding plate has a block attached to it, the block having a hole threaded to mate with a respective threaded end of a rod.

6. Canceled.

7. (Original) The shear wall of Claim 1, further comprising a first anchor plate connected to a top of the wall near the first corner and a second anchor plate connected to the top of the wall near the third corner.

8. (Original) The shear wall of Claim 7, wherein each of the anchor plates has a plurality of threaded holes formed therein.

9. (Original) The shear wall of Claim 8, wherein the threaded holes formed in the anchor plate are formed by welding a threaded nut to the anchor plate.

10. (Original) The shear wall of Claim 7, further comprising a first hollow spacer connected between the wall and an anchor plate near the first corner and a second hollow spacer connected between the wall and an anchor plate near the second corner.

11. (Original) The shear wall of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the rods includes a turnbuckle, whereby the rod may be tensioned by adjusting the turnbuckle.

12. (Currently Amended) A light gauge steel shear wall comprising:

an upper channel;

a lower channel;

a plurality of spaced-apart studs connected between the upper channel and the lower channel, the plurality of studs including a first set of ganged studs connected at one end to a first end of the upper channel to form a first corner and connected at an other end to a first end of the lower channel to form a second corner, a second set of ganged studs connected at one end to a second end of the upper channel to form a third corner and connected at an other end to a second end of the lower channel to form a fourth corner, and a plurality of interior studs in a spaced apart relationship between the first and second studs, each of the interior studs having two holes formed therein and having a front face and a rear face;

a T plate near each of the first, second, third and fourth corners, each of the T plates comprising integrally formed base plates and upstanding plates, the base plates being positioned inside respective channels, each of the upstanding plates including a block having a threaded hole, each threaded hole having a thread in a direction opposite of a direction of a thread in a threaded hole in a diagonally opposite corner, threaded blocks in diagonally opposite corners being positioned on a same side of respective upstanding plates, the same side being opposite a side of the upstanding plate on which blocks are attached in other corners;

a first rod with threaded ends mated to blocks in the first and fourth corners; and

a second rod with threaded ends mated to blocks in the second and third corners;

wherein the first and second rods do not interfere with each other where they cross, and wherein each of the first and second rods pass through one of the two holes in each of the interior studs such that neither the first rod nor the second rod extend past the front face or the rear face of any interior stud.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The shear wall of Claim 12, further comprising~~ A light gauge steel shear wall comprising:

an upper channel;

a lower channel;

a plurality of spaced-apart studs connected between the upper channel and the lower channel, the plurality of studs including a first set of ganged studs connected at one end to a first end of the upper channel to form a first corner and connected at an other end to a first end of the lower channel to form a second corner, a second set of ganged studs connected at one end to a second end of the upper channel to form a third corner and connected at an other end to a second end of the lower channel to form a fourth corner, and a plurality of interior studs in a spaced apart relationship between the first and second studs, each of the interior studs having two holes formed therein and having a front face and a rear face;

a T plate near each of the first, second, third and fourth corners, each of the T plates comprising integrally formed base plates and upstanding plates, the base plates being positioned inside respective channels, each of the upstanding plates including a block having a threaded hole, each threaded hole having a thread in a direction opposite of a direction of a thread in a threaded hole in a diagonally opposite corner, threaded blocks in diagonally opposite corners being positioned on a same side of respective upstanding plates, the same side being opposite a side of the upstanding plate on which blocks are attached in other corners;

a first rod with threaded ends mated to blocks in the first and fourth corners;

a second rod with threaded ends mated to blocks in the second and third corners;

a hollow rectangular member welded to a top surface of the upper channel;

a first spacer attached to the hollow rectangular member at the first corner;

a second spacer attached to the hollow rectangular member at the third corner;

a first anchor plate attached to the first spacer; and

a second anchor plate attached to the second spacer;

wherein each of the first and second rods pass through one of the two holes in each of the interior studs such that neither the first rod nor the second rod extend past the front face or the rear face of any interior stud; and wherein each of the anchor plates has a plurality of holes formed therein and a plurality of nuts attached thereto, one of the plurality of nuts being attached to the anchor plate at a location corresponding to one of the plurality of holes such that a bolt may pass through the hole to mate with the nut.

14-20. (Canceled).